leather ſtuff'd (properly mounted) might receive the fire from the ſulphur, and charge the conductor poſitively? Such a globe would be in no danger of breaking. I think I can conceive how it may be done; but have not time to add more than that I am,

Yours, &c.

B. FRANKLIN.

LETTER X.

FROM

BENJ. FRANKLIN, *Eſq*; of *Philadelphia*,

Oct. 19, 1752.

AS frequent mention is made in the news papers from *Europe*, of the ſucceſs of the *Philadelphia* experiment for drawing the electric fire from clouds by means of pointed rods of iron erected on high buildings, *&c.* it may be agreeable to inform the curious that the ſame experiment has ſucceeded in *Philadelphia*, though made in a different and more eaſy manner, which is as follows.

Make a ſmall croſs of two light ſtrips of cedar, the arms

arms ſo long as to reach to the four corners of a large thin ſilk handkerchief when extended; tie the corners of the handkerchief to the extremities of the croſs, ſo you have the body of a kite; which being properly accommodated with a tail, loop, and ſtring, will riſe in the air, like thoſe made of paper; but this being of ſilk is fitter to bear the wind and wet of a thunder guſt without tearing. To the top of the upright ſtick of the croſs is to be fixed a very ſharp pointed wire, riſing a foot or more above the wood. To the end of the twine, next the hand, is to be ty'd a ſilk ribbon, and where the ſilk and twine join, a key may be faſtened. This kite is to be raiſed when a thunder guſt appears to be coming on, and the perſon who holds the ſtring muſt ſtand within a door, or window, or under ſome cover, ſo that the ſilk ribbon may not be wet; and care muſt be taken that the twine does not touch the frame of the door or window. As ſoon as any of the thunder clouds come over the kite, the pointed wire will draw the electric fire from them, and the kite, with all the twine, will be electrified, and the looſe filaments of the twine will ſtand out every way, and be attracted by an approaching finger. And when the rain has wet the kite and twine, ſo that it can conduct the electric fire freely, you will find it ſtream out plentifully from the key on the approach of your knuckle. At this key the phial may be charged; and from electric fire thus obtained, ſpirits may be kindled, and all the other electric experiments be performed, which are uſually done by the

help

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